



BOROUGH OF CLOSTER

295 Closter Dock Road, Closter, New Jersey 07624

John C. Glidden, Jr.
Mayor

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~ Closter Borough Council ~

Victoria Amitai **Jannie Chung** **Scott Devlin**
Alyssa Latner **Dolores Witko** **Joseph Yammarino**

MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER



May 26, 2022

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

This issue of the Mayor's Newsletter is filled with news and events taking place in town. As always, my door is open; please feel free to call my office at 201-784-0600, x500 to discuss any issue concerning the Borough.



The Annual Closter Memorial Day Parade will take place on Monday, May 30th beginning at 10am. The parade will form behind the Closter Borough hall located at 295 Closter Dock and proceed through the center of town to Memorial Park on Harrington Ave. for the Memorial Day Services.

We are asking that all Closter residents remember the true meaning of this day and pay proper tribute to the men and women of our country that have made the ultimate sacrifice for all of us, defending our freedoms. One simple way to do this is to attend the parade in the center of town and or attend the Memorial Day Ceremony at Memorial Park.

The parade will form at 9:30am sharp and kick off precisely at 10am. All organizations wishing to participate in the parade by marching or with a float should contact Jim Oettinger at joettinger@closternj.us or 201-625-2063.

This year's Grand Marshall will be Closter resident and Army veteran Joe Organo.

Following the parade, all residents are invited back to the Closter Elks for food and refreshments. The Closter Elks lodge is located at 148 Railroad Ave. in Closter; walking distance from the Memorial Day ceremony.

The legacy of earning the Mayor's Trophy can be yours. The Mayor's Trophy will be awarded to the most patriotic group in the parade!!

Closter Police Department

PSA CRIME ALERT: Yet again, multiple burglaries to motor vehicles and motor vehicle theft attempts this weekend in Closter and the Northern Valley. As long as the criminals are successful in stealing cars in Closter and the Northern Valley area they will continually come here. They will continually drive around our quiet neighborhoods during the overnight hours and look for vehicles with the key fob inside. It is becoming increasingly more dangerous for the residents and local law enforcement if we all don't lock our doors and all do our part. If you have trouble remembering, set a reminder.

MacBain Farm

Closter's MacBain Farm, one of Closter's unique treasures, will open on Saturday June 18, and Closter residents are invited to come, register, and pick from the fresh leafy greens in the fields. Lettuces, kales, collards, parsley and other herbs are ready for picking. Peppers, squash, eggplants, beans, cucumbers and many other veggies will follow and tomatoes will be ripening on the vines for future picking.

Each Closter household can register to pick one bucket of fresh vegetables once a week from the posted "pick list." Proof of residency is required at registration and registration is required to pick. Households that registered in 2021 will not need to fill out a new form, but must document current residency via a driver's license or utility bill. The MacBain Farm, 203 Hickory Lane is open Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 9am-1pm and 4pm-6pm.

Closter Public Library

The Library serves our community as a cultural, recreational and educational center. It strives to provide the best materials, reference assistance, programs, classes and events to all. New this month is "*Shakespeare Summer*" which will be held on Thursdays at 7pm; beginning on June 3-July 28. Participate in a table reading and discussion of *The Tempest* (registration is necessary). *First Friday Flicks* on Friday, June 3rd at 1pm will feature *The Outfit*. The Writing Club, Mah Jongg, and the Knitting & Craft Group meet in person at the library. Please visit the library or check the schedule posted on line for dates, times and signup information).

The Adult Book Club, Short Story Club, Zumba and Yoga & Meditation (hybrid class) are being held via Zoom. Registration for the Zoom link is necessary, so please contact the library. The services offered to our children and young adults are expanding every month. The summer weather is a perfect time to visit the Store King Art Center. Passes are available to patrons through the library. And speaking of art, the Belskie Art Wall, located in the long corridor to the community room, is featuring "*The Art Beyond A Syndrome*", the art, poetry and photography of Closter resident Andrew Weatherly through the end of June.

Closter Environmental Commission

Let's have some fun outdoors! Did you know there are twenty-six parks in Closter? There is more than one park within easy walking distance of every home in town, and the [Cross-Closter Trails System](#) traverses many of the parks, including Hagen Park. Named after Ingrid Hagen, a long-time teacher at the Village School (then the grades 6-8 Closter school), and Olaf Hagen, a devoted environmentalist, Hagen Park has six trails. These trails lead past several brooks, including the Tenakill Brook, several bridges, and a former racehorse track. The Hagen Park trails connect to Demarest Nature Center trails, and encourage folks to enjoy the woods for a longer trek. Red-tailed and Cooper's hawks, great horned owls, and other birds are among the many denizens of these woods. For adventurers, there are wild mushrooms in season, and for those looking for a quiet respite, there are conveniently placed benches to relax and read a good book or visit with friends. The park's entrances are on Demarest Avenue to the west of the Stop and Shop, on Durie Avenue, and at the intersection of Tenakill and Ryerson Street.

Closter Nature Center

"Pond Celebration" Saturday, June 4th from 1-4pm. Stop by our family-friendly celebration for some nature fun and good vibes! There are activities for children and the young-at-heart around and on the pond. Registration for June classes and our SUMMER PROGRAM is open! Learn more about our offerings at <https://closternaturecenter.org/events-list-futurepast/>

Preschoolers will explore "Forest Life" in Mrs. Wonderwhy's "Nature Fun Fridays". New session begins June 3rd. Learn about "Pond Life" in our after-school programs. Explore our Nature Center's ponds and learn about the creatures that live there. Classes begin the week of June 7th. To register please go to: <https://register.communitypass.net/Closter>, and you will be taken to Community Pass, our online registration and payment system.

The CNC June newsletter and more can be found at www.closternaturecenter.org. Any questions or for more information, please email admin@closternaturecenter.org

Closter Fire Department



Our community is protected by dedicated and committed Volunteer Firefighters, a special kind of people who do their jobs when called upon, even at three o'clock in the morning. Saving lives and protecting property is not an easy task, our department responds on average to over 300 calls a year. The members do it willingly and often without recognition.

The Closter Fire Department is currently in dire need of new members to help answer the call of duty. We can have all of the equipment in the world but without members it is useless. Volunteer members like you allow us to serve our community as we have proudly done for over the past 129 years.

As our world becomes more complicated with each year passing, our emergency calls for help increase. Today we respond to far more than just fires and alarms. We answer a myriad of unique requests, each and everyone just a little different from the last but one thing remains the constant - **One call does it all!** But we need volunteer members like you to help us continue to help our community for the next 129 years :)

**PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US –
WE PROMISE AN EXPERIENCE YOU WILL NOT FORGET !!**

Closter Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Corps



The Closter Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Corps has been serving the residents of Closter & the Northern Valley community since 1936. Our 40 active member organization (which are comprised of your neighbors) services the Emergency Medical needs of Closter & supports surrounding communities 24 | 7 | 365. We answer approximately 750 emergency calls per year, which equates to approximately 3,300 man hours per year.

We currently support two State of New Jersey approved fully equipped BLS Ambulances, a First Responder unit, a Rescue Truck for motor vehicle accidents / extrication and an Off Road support vehicle. As you can imagine, to support these services takes a lot of financial help. Most people are surprised to learn that 80% of our funding is through fundraising.

We ask for your help but once a year. To make a donation you can use the envelope in our upcoming mailing or visit our web site at www.CVARCNJ.org. For additional information you can “like” our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CVARCNJ>

Closter Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Corps 2022 Fund Drive – We Need Your Help!!
We appreciate your support.

Closter Health Department

A free rabies vaccination clinic will be held on Saturday JUNE 11, 2022 from 1 pm to 2 pm at the Senior Center, 4 Lewis St., located behind the Closter Borough Hall.

Due to COVID following are required: No more than two (2) people per pet stand, stay in the LINE OUTSIDE until we call your number. Dogs must be restrained with a non-retractable leash for quick and easy transfer to the veterinarian or technician for vaccination. Cats must be transported in suitable carriers or containers to prevent escape.

Cat License: **June and July** are the renewal months for CAT licenses. Borough Code, Chapter 225-26 requires all cats be licensed. Renewal notices have been mailed to ALL residents in CLOSTER. **The rabies vaccine must be valid through July, 2023 and MUST SHOW PROOF of RABIES VACCINATION in order to renew your CAT’s license.** Please visit the Health Department Office to renew or license your cat(s).

For more information call the Health Department at 201-784-0600 Ext. 493 or email Jbae@closternj.us

Closter Shade Tree Commission

It is with warm wishes and a tremendous amount of gratitude the Borough’s Shade Tree Commission extends its appreciation to STC volunteer member, **George Futterknecht**, on his retirement. George has volunteered his service and expertise to Closter’s STC for the past 26 years. George has contributed a wealth of guidance and vision to the Borough, assisting in the development of long term plans and fostering the delicate balance associated with streetscapes designed to enhance the value of all properties in Closter. Best wishes to you, George, as you embark on new adventures. We shall miss you!

The STC has a very successful pruning program in place to maintain Closter’s street trees. On an annual basis, areas (outlined by voting district) are pruned to insure the health and beauty of Closter’s streetscape. The Borough engages certified arborists to prune these street trees. Property owners are requested to refrain from pruning or topping recently planted/young trees, as these trees are included in the STC’s district pruning program,. The health and beauty of the Borough’s street trees adds value to all of Closter’s properties.

Please contact the Shade Tree Commission via email at shadetree@closternj.us with questions or concerns regarding street trees.

Closter Senior Club

“We are back and we are ready to rock... the Closter Senior Citizens Club invites residents age 60 and over to join us. We had some setbacks due to COVID but, we are a resilient bunch, who are busy rebuilding the Senior Club and expanding our programs and activities. Our goal is to create a setting that is warm, inviting and **FUN**. Our programs will be varied and will include mind, body and soul. Yearly membership for the Closter Senior Citizens Club is \$15.00 per year. This membership entitles you to take part in activities offered by the Club.

Our regular meetings are held on the **First** and **Third** Wednesdays of each month beginning at 1:00 p.m. On the Third Wednesday, the meeting includes a luncheon. Meetings are held at the Closter Senior Center, located behind the Borough Hall on Lewis Street. Please call us with any questions or if you would like more details about the Closter Senior Citizens Club – (201) 784-0355. We hope to see you soon!”

Closter PTO

The Closter PTO Spring Fair is **BACK - Saturday, June 4th 11am-4pm at Tenakill Middle School**
Come join us for a day of family fun with inflatables, games, entertainment, food, and vendors

Calling all Volunteers:

Please join our terrific team of parent and teacher volunteers and help make this day an amazing experience for all.

Borough Ordinance Revisions

Recently the governing body approved the amendment of *Chapter 181, Tree Preservation & Removal; Definitions*, and *Chapter 134, Noise; 134-7*. These changes are as follows:

Chapter 181-2 Tree Preservation & Removal Definitions: A “Person” is now defined as: The owner of a parcel of real estate, or any other individual, tree removal contractor and/or landscaper, group, lessor, company, firm, corporation, partnership, association, society or other legal entity.

Tree removal permits are required by the Borough and issued through the Building Department. Permit applications are available on the borough’s website (www.closternj.us) or through the Closter Building Department. Property owners and contractors are required to have an approved permit prior to the start of work.

Chapter 134-7 Noise Definitions: Construction work can be performed before or after the specified times or on the days restricted in limited circumstances. Please refer to the newsletter *attachment* outlining these changes.

The public’s assistance in sharing important changes in ordinances with friends and neighbors who may not read the monthly newsletter is requested.

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## *A Bit of Closter History*

A new addition to the *Mayor’s Newsletter* will be a series of articles provided by Closter’s Borough Historian, Sophie Heymann. We hope you enjoy gaining a deeper insight into Closter’s history!

“In contrast to the many “pop-up” suburbs of the twentieth century, Closter is a very old town. Closter was settled in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century by enterprising Dutch and English upper class, who received “Patents” from their rulers. These huge land holdings, originally mere hunting grounds, and later carved into large estates became Rockland and Bergen Counties, whose actual borders were not determined until after the Revolutionary War.

It took another 100 years to establish the Borough of Closter, which, until the twentieth century, was part of the town of Harrington. It was a tax dispute by Closter residents who were antagonized by the tax levies of Harrington Park and insisted on controlling their school assessments that forced the New Jersey legislature to carve up Harrington Park to create Closter among several other neighboring towns in the year 1904. The hand written tax records of those days are still at Borough Hall, and it leaves one to wonder how those twenty or thirty dollar assessments provided for our schools, our roads and our parks. Those will be my topics in the next few months.” ~ *Sophie Heymann*

### **Covid-19 2022 Update**

Businesses are open, activities have resumed and everyday interests are in full swing. As of this writing, the State of NJ and the Borough of Closter have relaxed Covid mandates. Our goal is to keep it that way, but diligence is required from all of us. As much as we want this virus to disappear, it hasn't; we need to be aware and protect ourselves. Indoor social distancing is probably the greatest way to deter the spread of the virus. There is a comprehensive resource for Covid information which can be found on the State of New Jersey's website <https://covid19.nj.gov>



The May 25<sup>th</sup> Mayor & Council meeting was a very special evening as the contributions of volunteers from all corners of our community were acknowledged. Recognizing the dedication and commitment of the volunteer members of Closter's *Volunteer Ambulance Corps* and the *Closter Fire Department*, acknowledging the 26 years of commitment to the Shade Tree Commission by resident *George Futterknecht* and congratulating the *Closter Senior Club* in celebration of their 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, is perhaps the highlight of my job as Mayor. On behalf of the governing body, many thanks to each and every volunteer for making a significant difference in our town.

Closter is moving forward in many positive directions. Volunteers are the backbone of any community and I encourage each of you to think of ways in which you can, as a volunteer, make a difference.

All the best,



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Mayor

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Attachment: Ordinance 2021:1283 Condensed

**BOROUGH OF CLOSTER**  
**ORDINANCE NO.: 2021:2021-1283**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 134 OF THE  
CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF CLOSTER**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Closter desires to amend Chapter 134 of the Code of the Borough of Closter, Noise, and more specifically Subsection 134-7 regarding permitted hours and days of operation for construction or repair work; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ordinance Committee has recommended these changes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Attorney has reviewed the changes and found same to be in order;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Closter, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey as follows:

**Section 1.** **CHAPTER 134, NOISE, § 134-7**, shall be amended to read as follows:

**§134-7. Construction or repair; definitions.**

*Delete the existing Section A and replace it with the following:*

A.

(1) Except as permitted by Code § 134-2 or subsection (2) below, it shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to perform construction, repair or alteration work as defined hereafter before 7:00 a.m. or after 7:00 p.m. Mondays through Fridays; before 9:00 a.m. or after 6:00 p.m. Saturdays; or at any time on Sundays and holidays.

(2) Construction work can be performed before or after the specified times or on the days restricted in subsection A(1) only in the following limited circumstances:

- i. *By contractors:* On properties located in commercial, industrial and business zones, construction work can be performed on Sundays and/or holidays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., so long as (a) the noise levels do not exceed those outlined in § 134-2; and (b) the properties are not immediately adjacent to a residential zone.
- ii. *By homeowners/residents:* On Sundays and holidays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. only, so long as the work is performed by the homeowners/residents or a family member themselves and the noise levels do not exceed those outlined in § 134-2.
- iii. *For snow removal:* During and within 24 hours following the end of any snowstorm or snow accumulation, the use of snowblowers or similar motorized equipment or machinery, when operated with a muffler, may be used before or after the specified times or on the days restricted in subsection A(1) for the purpose of snow removal.
- iv. *At any time in the case of an emergency,* as determined by the Chief of Police, Fire Chief, DPW Superintendent, or other responsible Borough official. Also, in the case of urgent necessity or in the interest of public health or safety, the DPW Superintendent, Police Chief, Fire Chief or Construction Code Official may grant a permit for construction, repair or alteration work for a period not to exceed three days, by the terms of which, such work may be carried on between hours otherwise prohibited by this section.

*In Section B, Delete the existing definitions for CONSTRUCTION and HOLIDAYS and replace them with the following:*

**CONSTRUCTION**

Any activity at or on the property, building, excavation or demolition site, including but not limited to excavation, demolition, construction, landscaping, repair or alteration work, the delivery of materials, movement of heavy equipment or the use of gas or electric power equipment; and includes, without limitation, the operation or use of any power lawnmower or other internal combustion landscaping equipment such as leaf blowers, vacuums, and chainsaws.

**HOLIDAYS**

New Year's Day, January 1; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, third Monday of January; Memorial Day, last Monday in May; Independence Day, July 4; Labor Day, first Monday in September; Thanksgiving Day, fourth Thursday in November; and Christmas Day, December 25.

**Section 2.**

If any sentence, section, clause or other portion of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall, for any reason, be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or repeal the remainder of this Ordinance. All Ordinances or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication as required by law.

| <b>Councilperson</b> | <b>Motion</b> | <b>Second</b> | <b>Yes</b> | <b>No</b> | <b>Absent</b> | <b>Abstain</b> |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|------------|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| Councilman Devlin    |               |               |            |           |               |                |
| Councilwoman Latner  |               |               |            |           |               |                |
| Councilwoman Witko   |               |               |            |           |               |                |
| Councilman Yammarino |               |               |            |           |               |                |
| Councilwoman Chung   |               |               |            |           |               |                |
| Councilwoman Amitai  |               |               |            |           |               |                |

Introduced:

Adopted:

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Evans, Acting Borough Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
John C. Glidden, Jr., Mayor

Certified to be a true copy of Ordinance adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Closter at the Regular Meeting held \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephanie Evans, Acting Borough Clerk